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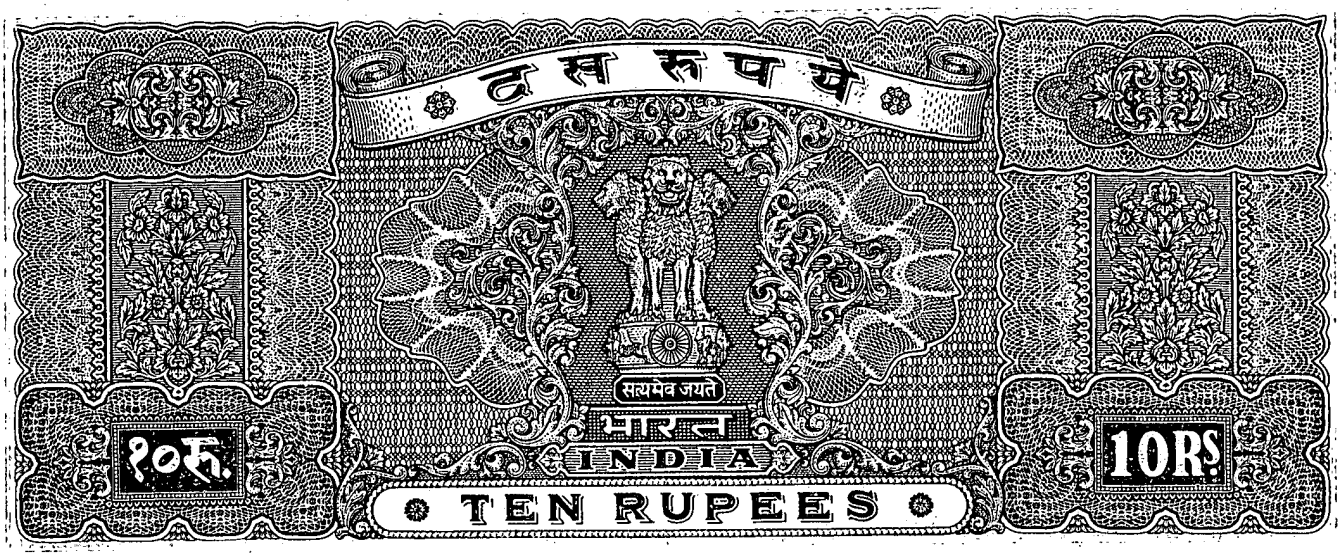

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Sankarasubbier Narayanan et al. Serial No.: 10/032890 Filed: December 27, 2001 *For: A process for preparing alkylated dihydroxybenzene*	Group Art Unit: Examiner: Attorney Docket No: 4347-4002

To,
The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

I, Sankarasubbier Narayanan age 62 years, residing in INDIA, and a citizen of India, do hereby state as under.

M. VED KUMAR, B.Com. LL.B.
NOTARY
Appointed By Govt. of A.P.

I am a Scientist at the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, India. I graduated (B.Sc., Chemistry) in the year 1961 from Madras University located at Chennai, INDIA. I completed my Master's Degree (M.Sc., Chemistry) in 1963 from Madras University at Chennai, INDIA. Subsequently, I completed my doctoral degree (Ph.D in Surface Chemistry and Catalysis) in 1968 from the Madras University, Chennai, India.

After completing my doctoral degree, I took up my first assignment as a Chemistry Faculty at Indian Institute of Technology Madras at Chennai in the year 1968. After working several years abroad (USA, Ireland, UK, Canada), I joined the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology as Scientist in the year 1981 where I continued to work till my superannuation in 2001 in the area of catalysis. From 2001, I am working as a CSIR Emeritus Scientist at this institute and continuing my research in the area of catalysis.

I am fully aware of the prosecution history of this case and am in receipt of the final office action issued by U.S. PTO.

I hereby state the invention of the instant application

A Process for preparing alkylated dihydroxybenzene.

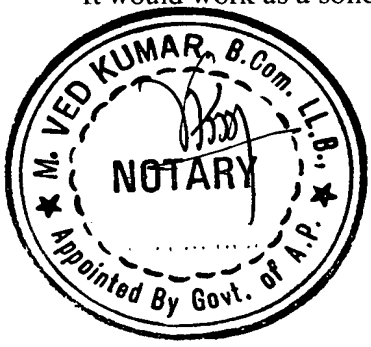
I do claim that I have the skill and the art of catalysis involving solid acid catalyst.

We believe that montmorillomite K10 clay can be modified in a particular way following one of the procedures to improve the acid functionality.

1. pillaring with polyhydroxy cations Zr, Al, Cr, Ga, etc.
2. acid modification
3. ion exchange with transition metals, or
4. metal oxide impregnation

B. If it is modified in one of the four ways stated above, no matter how it is modified, it would work as claimed.

It would work as a solid acid catalyst in an improved way as claimed in the patent.



To support the above statements, I am citing a few published literature references including that of ours.

1. Clays and catalysis: a promising future
   A. Vaccari, Applied Clay Science 14 (1999) 161-198 and relevant references therein

2. Clay Catalysts: Opportunities for use in improving environmental quality
   T. J. Pinnavaia, Proceedings of the 10th International Clay Conference, Australia, 1993, pp1-8 and relevant references therein.

3. Aniline alkylation over solid acid catalysts
   Sankarasubbier Narayanan, Kiranmayi Deshpande, Applied Catalysis A 199 (2000) 1-31 and relevant references therein.

4. Montmorillonite as a versatile solid acid catalyst for tert-butylation of resorcinol
   Sankarasubbier Narayanan, KVVSBSR Murthy, Applied Catalysis A 213 (2001) 273-278 and relevant references therein.

5. Alumina pillared montmorillonite: characterization and catalysis of toluene benzylation and aniline ethylation
   Sankarasubbier Narayanan, Kiranmayi Deshpande, Applied Catalysis A 193 (2000) 17-27 and relevant references therein.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title XVIII of the United States Code and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this Application for Patent or any patent issuing thereon.

Dated: March 16, 2004

Place: Hyderabad

Signature of inventor

M. VED KUMAR B.Com. LL.B. Appointed By Govt. of A.P. NOTARIBE

ATTESTED

M. Ved Kumar B.Com. LL.B.
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
GHATKESAR
RANGA REDDY DIST